

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). An information retrieval apparatus for searching a set of information items and displaying results of the search using a self-organizing map, the apparatus comprising:

a graphical user interface ~~operable~~ configured to display a representation of at least some of the information items as a n-dimensional array of display points within the self-organizing map within a display area, the information items each having a set of characterizing information features which include data representative of one or more video images,

a processor configured to train the self-organizing map, using color histograms for each video image, to an effect that the color histogram representing the video image of the information item when applied to an input of the self-organizing map as a feature vector identifies one of a plurality of output nodes, the output nodes being arranged to identify points within the self-organizing map,

a user control ~~operable~~ configured to, in response to a user input, ~~[[to]]~~ select a video image of an information item, and

a search processor ~~operable~~ configured

to form a color histogram of the user selected video image,

to generate a user defined feature vector from the user selected video image using the color histogram,

to search the set of information items by applying the user defined feature vector to the input of the self-organizing map to identify information items which include video images having color histograms corresponding to that of the user defined video image, and

to perform a related search with respect to the user selected video image by identifying, from the self-organizing map, information items which correspond to positions in the array which are neighbouring positions with respect to the array position corresponding to the user selected video image.

2 (Currently Amended). An information retrieval apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the search processor is ~~operable~~ configured to search the set of information items in accordance with a search query and to identify information items corresponding to the search query, and the search processor is ~~operable~~ configured to generate the self-organizing map data of information items identified as a result of the search on the search query.

3 (Canceled).

4 (Previously Presented). An information retrieval apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a number of dimensions n is two, and a position in the array is defined by x , y coordinates.

5 (Currently Amended). An information retrieval apparatus as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the search processor is ~~operable~~ configured to perform a related search with respect to the user selected video image by identifying information items which correspond to positions in the array which are within a radius of positions from the array position corresponding to the user selected video image.

6 (Currently Amended). An information retrieval apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the user control is ~~operable~~ configured to provide the user with a facility for

specifying a number of neighbouring positions in accordance with a relative similarity of the information items to be searched by the search processor in the related search, with respect to the array position of interest.

7 (Currently Amended). A method for searching a set of information items and displaying results of the search using a self-organizing map, the method comprising:

displaying a representation of at least some of the information items on an n-dimensional display array of display points within the self-organizing map within a display area, the information items each having a set of characterizing information features which include data representative of one or more video images,

training the self-organizing map, using color histograms for each video image, to an effect that the color histogram representing the video image of the information item when applied to an input of the self-organizing map as a feature vector identifies one of a plurality of output nodes, the output nodes being arranged to identify points within the self-organizing map,

selecting a video image of an information item in response to a user input,

forming a color histogram of the user selected video image,

generating a user defined feature vector from the user selected video image using the color histogram,

searching the set of information items by applying the user defined feature vector to the input of the self-organizing map to identify information items which include video images having color histograms corresponding to that of the user ~~define~~ defined video image, and

performing a related search with respect to the user selected video image by identifying, from the self-organizing map, information items which correspond to positions in

the array which are neighbouring positions with respect to the array position corresponding to the user selected video image.

8 (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 7, further comprising:

searching the information items in accordance with a search query,

identifying information items corresponding to the search query, and

the generating comprises

generating the self-organizing map of information items identified as a result of the searching the information items in accordance with the search query.

9 (Canceled).

10 (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the number of dimensions n is two, and a position in the array is defined by x , y co-ordinates.

11 (Previously Presented). A method as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the performing the related search comprises performing a related search with respect to the user selected video image by identifying information items which correspond to positions in the array which are within a radius of positions from the array position corresponding to the user selected video image.

12 (Previously Presented). A method as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the selecting includes providing the user with a facility for specifying the radius of positions in accordance with a relative similarity of the information item to be searched by the search processor in the related search, with respect to the array position of interest.

13 (Previously Presented). A storage medium providing computer software having program code, which when executed on a computer causes the computer to carrying out a method according to claim 7.

14 (Canceled).

15 (Canceled).

16 (Canceled).